

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 7, 11, 12, and 99.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 2.
5. (Original) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 4.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~An isolated polynucleotide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
8. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 7, 99, and 100.

9. (Original) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 8.

10. (Previously Presented) An antisense polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide that is complementary to a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 2, 7, 99, and 100.

11. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that detectably hybridizes to the complement of the sequence recited in SEQ ID NO:1 under moderately stringent conditions that include a wash in 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 60 °C for 15 minutes, wherein the isolated polynucleotide exhibits at least 90% nucleotide identity to a polynucleotide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the isolated polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAP-kinase), said polypeptide comprising the peptide sequence CLVHCKMGVSRSASTVIAYAM (SEQ ID NO:3).

12. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to ~~claim 10 or claim 11~~.

13. (Original) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 12.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a dual specificity phosphatase 12 (DSP-12) polypeptide, comprising the steps of:

- (a) culturing a host cell according to claim 9 under conditions that permit expression of the DSP-12 polypeptide; and
- (b) isolating DSP-12 polypeptide from the host cell culture.

15.-98. (Cancelled)

99. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAP-kinase), said polynucleotide comprising a sequence that encodes the peptide sequence CLVHCKMGVSRSASTVIAYAM (SEQ ID NO:3) and that is at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

100. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAP-kinase), said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein aspartic acid is located at position 222 and the peptide sequence CLVHCKMGVSRSASTVIAYAM (SEQ ID NO:3) is located at positions 249 through 269 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.